



Please reply to: 7106 Bells Mill Rd.
Bethesda, MD 20817
(301)-365-5241 (voice)
(301)-657-4214 (fax)
letedge@yalevm.ycc.yale.edu (Internet)

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Josh -

International science channels will produce a continuous flow of video material. In the US there may be a demand for a more user-friendly technology than the slow-scan options on the Internet. This demand could be a good match with Larry Ellison's company, that is pioneering video-on-demand.

They will build infrastructure to reach into millions of homes in the evening, where the greatest demand and profits will exist. But there will be slack during 9-5. Scientists and engineers in universities and R&D-oriented companies (scanning, on fast forward, videotapes of conferences and research symposia worldwide) could use the system. Also, the practice of medicine and education.

I was impressed with this interview with Larry Ellison (enclosed) when I saw it in January.

There's a new educational foundation (p. 3) with \$2 million/year to get new projects in education & health underway. And (p. 7) a bold vision (a global analog to the Library of Alexandria) that is along our lines.

Organizationally, limited partnerships between bold vendors and scientific societies could be a good way to get on-line publishing and video underway quickly. Oracle could provide the distribution system; a scientific society (and its members on different campuses) could put as much print and video material into the system as they wished. The scientific society could set subscription rates & access charges. Oracle could get a fee (to cover cost) + a share of the profits (a useful incentive).

I recall you mentioned that you knew Larry Ellison. Given his boldness and vision, he might find this to be an attractive idea.

There's a major video experiment using telephone in the Washington, DC area (Oracle + Bell Atlantic) that's mentioned in the interview. We're seeing what we can get underway with NIH and (perhaps) Smithsonian's Campus on the Mall (Tom Lovejoy). Early stage - I'll keep you posted.

best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "JH-yl".